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ed condition, I know not. But, if our magistrates regard the occurrences at Kilkeel, as but *one local effect* of a deep and wide spread evil, that will again on similar occasions work similar effects; they will judge, perhaps, that a gentle local remedy cannot reach to the extent of this disorder. If they are of opinion that all these internal commotions owe their origin to the existence of party associations, perhaps they may feel it a duty to endeavour at once the removal of this baneful cause, *the suppression of all exclusive societies, as pernicious and illegal.*

In the meantime, whatever may be done by our magistrates, or by the government, it may be useful to be well persuaded of the very malignant character, and ruinous tendency of these counter-associations. It is not, I am convinced, magnifying the evil, to state, that the full half of the lower orders in this country, are embodied in the one or the other of these antagonist societies, each of them professing loyalty and obedience to the laws; although both (if we may be allowed to understand parliamentary language) equally illegal. One of these associations professes itself to be embodied in support of the laws and constitution, *and is exclusively Protestant*; as if every Roman Catholic notwithstanding his very strict oaths of allegiance, were withheld *by his religion*, from being a loyal subject! Opposed to this, stands the other society, formed, as alleged to protect its members from Orange aggression—excluding in its turn, *EVERY PROTESTANT*, without exception, and thus assuming that no Protestant *could* be depended upon, as faithful or friendly!

This regulation, kept up, to the letter and the spirit, characterizes these opposite systems; the one as an “anti-catholic,”—the other, an “anti-protestant” association; both equally averse, equally suspicious, and equally prepared to act upon the principles they have adopted. Occasions for the exercise of this hostile feeling will be readily supplied. When at any public place, a *dispute* (as it is called) arises between individuals of each party, the whole body feels interested in the cause, and thinks itself committed to support their champion. Any malicious or

drunken wretch, can thus engage in his private quarrel, hundreds of his own society, who without examining into causes, instinctively rush forward, not to the just defence of their friend, but to revenge and slaughter.

Irritation and insult, by various modes, midnight assaults, rackings and house-burnings; such are the necessary and actual traits of these opposite and opposing systems. And thus these “defensive” societies become mutual aggressors, and violators of the laws they would pretend to revere.

The above is an imperfect enumeration of the public effects of the system. But the evil pervades the circles of private life also, and carries suspicion, alarm, and danger, into every neighbourhood. Besides this, each party is not only fearful of the opposite one; but also jealous and distrustful of all those neutral persons, who refuse to combine with them. The nearest and best neighbours, nay, members of the same family are thus divided against each other.

It would be painful, sir, to expatiate on the tendency of this system of things; or to calculate upon its probable and immediate consequences, if timely and prudent means are not adopted against them. But let us not be contented with complaining of the evil effects, let us trace the causes that first gave them birth, and still uphold their existence. Let each in his own circle endeavour to blunt the edge of party animosity; but let us remember to exert ourselves for the removal of the societies themselves, if we would expect a radical and total reform. We cannot do a better service to our country.

Hoc opus, hoc studium Parvi properemus
et Ampli,
Si Patriæ volumus, si Nobis, vivere chari.

I am, Sir, yours,
PACIFICUS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

PROSPECT OF REFORM IN THE ULSTER
PRESS.

In the last Retrospect of Politics, the public have been appealed to in a strong and earnest manner, to assist in rescuing the Press of Ulster from the degraded state in which it has long remained, and rendering it free and independent.

* 50th of the King.

† The whole of the late business in Kilkeel originated in a quarrel betwixt two persons.

It is hoped that a summons *from such an authority*, will be duly attended to at this period; and that the PEOPLE of Ulster will interfere, to retrieve the provincial character, by thus reforming, at the source, the great grievance of public apathy.

To reform the Newspaper Press *we have at present*, were indeed "a consummation devoutly to be wished;" but of this event there appears no immediate prospect. We have examples enough of Newspapers selling their birth-right of freedom; few, or none, of a spiritless journal emerging from its sunk and silent position, to the bold level of independence.

The long expected Newry paper is announced for this month. It enters upon its course under favourable auspices indeed. We have a prospectus, and a promise, which it realized, may justify the hope, that the spirit of dulness which has long brooded over our Press and our People, is about to be dispelled. If the ULSTER RECORDER performs ably, according to its engagements, it will in the first place, give to this province what it does not enjoy within its own border,—an independent newspaper. It may do more; it may reform the press established, by the success of its example; and open thus, for the improvement of the PUBLIC MIND, the long closed channels of truth and knowledge.

With no other interest but as a friend to liberty and rational reform, the present writer would recommend to the care and patronage of the Irish People, this YOUNG STRANGER. Let the Ulster Recorder be encouraged, *as it will deserve*; and it will deserve much, if it keep steadily in view the example of our Provincial Press,—and avoid it!

The plan of these *un-national* journals is, to bestow their whole attention, on "foreign politics;" and to pass over the *mere Irish* questions, as unworthy of notice! Let the Ulster Recorder invert this pernicious mode. If he consider public utility, all foreign discussions should yield a due precedence to the nearer interests of his country.

On the subject of toleration, and religious liberty, the Ulster journals have scarcely an opinion of their own!

Let the RECORDER scorn the hypocrisy, or the dulness, that could be undecided, or passive, on such vital subjects,

Let it labour to circulate its honest principles,—let it labour to unite and strengthen the people!

Unlike to these silent and disembodying unprincipled journalists, I trust the Ulster Recorder will justify his adopted name, by recording faithfully the acts and the sufferings that distinguish the bloody annals of our province. He will trace to their *first causes* these wide spread evils, and drag before the tribunal of public opinion, the abettors of that ruinous system from which such effects must naturally flow.

As to Orangeism, which, under the protecting shade of a *silent* press, has thriven and prospered, let its principles be detailed, and exposed to a deluded Protestant public, studiously kept in ignorance on this subject: let the system be denounced to the people, and to the administration of the country, in its full characters of guilt, and with all its prospects of danger. The rule should be, in the language of Counsellor O'Connell, "conciliation with the misguided individual;—with the system itself, no conciliation!"

We have been long enough cursed with a newspaper press without principle and without character; a press that has laboured to keep itself in a criminal *neutrality*, between Ireland and the enemies of Ireland!

petition for Catholic emancipation; and both of them, now and then, seem to express themselves rather favourably towards it; but they are extremely cautious never to get warm in its support. These *philosophers* are natives of Scotland;—Academes ambo! The man in the Newry Telegraph, though an Irishman, is still more cautious; not having yet committed himself by any intelligible avowal of his principles. This modest Journalist lays claim to vast patriotism, and proves his attention to the interests of Ireland, by devoting his columns, *by the yard*, to the discussions on foreign politics! His independence he has evinced by repelling the insinuations of the *Sun* paper, against his *loyalty*! his powers of argument by proving the *Evening Post* incorrect in two small facts, and bestowing hard names on this *Anti-Catholic* print! Finally, this gentleman is most tolerant, most liberal, most impartial; for he never opens his mouth, either *against* Orange intolerance on the one hand, or in *favour* of religious liberty on the other!

* The two Belfast Editors signed the

Again I will express the hope, that a better prospect now opens upon us; a new era in the history of reform! If the Ulster Recorder advocate civil and religious liberty, and encourage freedom of discussion; if it adhere to the cause of justice, peace, and practical reform; if its *party* be the PEOPLE,—it shall be crowned with the public approbation; while its own “solid fabric will support the laurels that adorn it.”

H— s

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

A copy of the following letter directed to the Editor of the Belfast News-Letter was put into the post office here, on the 18th instant, which has not been noticed by him in any shape.

Your obedient servant, &c.

Belfast, 24th March, 1814.

“Yet when I consider the whole case, as it lies before me, I am not much astonished; I am not surprised that men who hate liberty, should detest those that prize it; or that those who want virtue themselves, should endeavour to prosecute those who possess it.”

EARL OF CHATHAM.

Sir,

HAVING been from home, I had not an opportunity of seeing any of your publications for the month of February. On my return I happened to take up your paper of 4th inst. and in it I read an article signed Crito, the ostensible bearing of which, is, to give the Belfast Magazine a belabouring; but as far as I can understand its muddy abstruse expression (whether natural or assumed) I think the rancorous malignity of its aspersion is pointed at all the readers of that Magazine; and not only at them, but at almost all the inhabitants of Belfast; the whole Province of Ulster; nay, perhaps, at every man in the Empire who is unplaced, unpensioned, unhired, unaffiliated, and, who supports his family, and, an independent rank in society, by tillage, manufacture, commercial pursuits, or hereditary income. Only that the Magazine is published, and generally much estimated in the town of Belfast, I would agree with the report of the Critos, and think its present population a colony of strangers, and all its manners and customs

an importation from the County of Armagh.

Seeing, however, that this same article of the 4th inst. was a continuation, I had the curiosity to try back and found the origin in No. 8011 of your paper, along with a very curious note of your own, to which I would beg leave to call the attention of all your readers.

I assure you, Sir, I was sorry to see it, as I have always held your paper to be one of (if not the) very best in Ireland, and I write this to give you an opportunity of exhibiting to your readers, that yours is, *ipso facto*, a fair, candid, impartial public journal; not devoted alone to the conveyance of slander, malignity, and unfounded reproach of other contemporary prints, and the readers of them. I write this, I say, and send it to you for publication in preference to sending it any where else. If you publish it, your paper will maintain the character first above given of it; if you do not, as I have been at the trouble of writing, so shall I be, of having it published elsewhere; and let our readers judge between us.

Permit me likewise to assure you, that I never was a subscriber to the Belfast Magazine; and that I have not been in the habit of reading it; but the enormous charges of Crito induced me to peruse that part of it, called the Retrospect of Politics, which I have been doing for some days.

I have at this moment all your papers containing Crito's publications, under my eye, together with one purporting to be written by another Crito, who, to make us believe that he is not the same personage, signs himself “*Master Phil*.”

I have searched the Retrospects through and through, and I cannot find a sentence therein, to which the obnoxious epithets used both by Crito and *Phil*, will apply. And, until the gentlemen do specify, in what pages the “damning rebellious, disgracetul, corruptedly ignorant expressions and sentiments are to be found, I must consider every part of their different manifestoes a mere tirade of scurrilous declamation. For I find in the very Retrospect (Belfast Magazine, No. 66, page 73) which has given them so much umbrage, a paragraph beginning thus:

“Bonaparte also deals largely in cant,” &c. There is more sound argument under this head; more real incentive to detest the tyrant of France, and his practices, to raise in the mind of every British subject,